

School Study Guide and Reading Group Guide

- The author named the book *The Dragon's Daughters Return*? What do you think she meant by this name? Why not call the book, *Visiting China*? Why are names so important in the book?
- What is the connection between China, girls and dragons?
- The *Dragon's Daughters Return* discusses children and their parents returning to the land of the daughter's birth. Is the return only about a tourist trip?
- What are the many levels of returning that you can think of?
- One of the themes of the *Dragon's Daughters Return* is about stereotypes. What are some of the stereotypes the book discusses? How do stereotypes affect children in daily life? What are some you have used? What are some that have been used about you?
- Are stereotypes the same as bullying?
- How do you think stereotypes affect adopted children? What are some of the stereotypes you have heard about adoption? About China? About Chinese girls and women? About girls adopted from China? About parents who adopt? Have you ever used any of these stereotypes?
- Another theme of the book is immigration. America has been called a nation of immigrants. What is the nature of immigration for internationally adopted children? Why do you think the Chinese government still considers these girls its daughters?
- Identity is an important theme of the book. Why do parents of adopted daughters think it is so important that their daughters know about China? What are some of the issues that daughters adopted from China encounter? What identity issues do you deal with?
- In a country changing as fast as China, what roles can culture, history, and language play? Why are symbols important in China? Do you use symbols in your life?



Phoenix/*Feng huang*

Glossary of Chinese Terms

Ba xian guo hai, ge xian shentong—Eight Immortals crossing the sea each using his or her own prowess
Budai mu'ou—hand or bag puppet
Chang E—the Moon Goddess
Chunjie—Spring Festival/Lunar New Year
Chunlian—spring couplets
Dianniao—computer (literal translation: electric brain)
Duan yao—ink slab
Feng huang—phoenix
Fangzheng—kites
Fu—bats
Fu—fortune
Gaige Kaifang—Period of Reform and Opening
Guixian—tortoise
Gu Gong—Forbidden City
Guo—wok
Hong bao—red envelopes
Hibi—writing brush
Hua Shizilu—pebble pictures in footpaths
Huang—yellow
Huimo—ink stick
Hutong—narrow alleyway
Jiandao—scissors
Jiaozi—dumplings or potstickers
Jin yu—goldfish
Jing—capital; short for Beijing
Jiu—nine
Kuilexi—puppet show
Le hui fuliyuan—Social Welfare Institute
Long—dragon

Long wang—king dragon
Long nu huixiang—dragon's daughters returning home
Long nu—dragon's daughter (Taoist martial arts heroine)
Long wu—dragon dance
Ma Gu—the Goddess of Longevity
Ma Gu xian shou—Ma Gu offers longevity
Men ding—door studs
Mi—rice
Miantiao—noodles
Mu' ouxi—wooden doll show
Nushu—women's writing
Ping—vase
Ping an—peace
Pixingxi—shadow puppet show (literally leather silhouette play)
Qilin—Unicorn
Qi Nian Dian—the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests
Ren minbi/RMB/Yuan—Chinese currency
Ren wu yuan lu, bi you jin you—those who don't plan for the future will find trouble on their doorstep
Shanzi—fans
Shehui Fuliji gou—social welfare institute
Shi shi—stone lions
Shuixiu—long white sleeves
Shou—longevity
Si—four
Sida faming—four great inventions
Sige xiandaihua—four modernizations
Siling—four sacred animals

Sishu—four books of classical learning
Si sheng—four tones of pronunciation
Sizi—four selves
Taihedian—Hall of Supreme Harmony
Tian Anmen—Gate of Heavenly Peace
Tian Tan—Temple of Heaven
Tianxia wu nan shi, zhi pa youxin ren—nothing in the world is difficult for she or he who sets her mind to it
Wang—king
Wengang Shibao—Four Treasures of the Study
Wu fu—five blessings
Wu fu peng shou—good fortune and long life
Wu gong—world of martial arts
Wu shu—martial arts
Xi Wangmu—the Queen Mother of the West
Xuan—paper
Yangqi—courage/valor
Yanse—color(s)
Yinyang—the Great Ultimate
Yu—fish
Yu—jade
Zhihui—wisdom

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Resources

Adoption Agencies General list

<http://www.fwcc.org/internetsources.html#agencies>

Adoption stories site

<http://www.childrenshopeint.org/latestnews1.htm>

Books

For adults

Adoption Nation: How the Adoption Revolution is Transforming America
by Adam Pertman

A Passage to the Heart: Writings from Families with Children from China,
Edited by Amy Klatzkin

An Empty Lap: One Couple's Journey to Parenthood and A Love Like No Other,
by Jill Smolowe

At Home in This World, A China Adoption Story, by Jean MacLeod

China Girl: One Man's Adoption Story, by David Demers

Daughter from Afar : A Family's International Adoption Story, by Sarah L Woodard

From China With Love: A Long Road to Motherhood, by Emily Buchanan

Intercountry Adoption from China: Examining Cultural Heritage and Other Postadoption
Issues by Jay W. Rojewski and Jacy L. Rojewski

Meeting Sophie: A Memoir of Adoption, by Nancy McCabe

Mei Mei — Little Sister: Portraits from a Chinese Orphanage by Richard Bowen

Miracles for Marlee, by Shannon G. Turner

The Chinese Adoption Handbook: How to Adopt from China and Korea,
by John H. Maclean

The Lost Daughters of China, by Karin Evans

Waiting Child: How the Faith and Love of One Child Saved the Life of Another, by Cindy
Champnella

Wanting a Daughter, Needing a Son: Abandonment, Adoption, and Orphanage Care in
China by Kay Ann Johnson, Amy Klatzkin (Editor)

Wuhu Diary : On Taking My Adopted Daughter Back to Her Hometown in China,
by Emily Prager

For children

Allison, By Allen Say

A Mother for Choco, by Keiko Kasza

Chinese Eyes, by Marjorie Ann Waybill, Pauline Cutrell (Illustrator)

Happy Adoption Day, By John McCutcheon

I Don't Have Your Eyes, by Carrie A. Kitze

I Love You Like Crazy Cakes, By Rose Lewis

Illustory: Write & Illustrate Your Own Book, by Chimeric Inc.

Kids Like Me in China by Ying Ying Fry, Amy Klatzkin, Brian Boyd, and Terry Fry

Let's Talk About It: Adoption, By Fred Rogers

Little Miss Spider, by David Kirk

Lucy's Family Tree, by Karen Halvorsen Schreck

We See the Moon, By Carrie A. Kitze

You're Not My Real Mother!, by Molly Friedrich

Education resources

<http://adoptionshop.com/>

<http://www.askasia.org/teachers/lessons/>

<http://www.chinabooks.com/cart/home.php>

<http://www.comeunity.com/adoption/books/0china.html>

<http://www.chinaconnectiononline.com/>

<http://www.lib.duke.edu/ias/EA/china.htm>

<http://www.umich.edu/~iinet/ccs/outreach/resources.htm>

Magazines

Adoption Magazine <http://magazines.adoption.com/>

http://adoptionshop.com/adoption_categories/magazines/

Rainbow Kids Magazine <http://www.rainbowkids.com/>

Organizations

Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute <http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/index.php>

Families with Children from China:

www.fwcc.org/contacts.html

www.fwcc.org/welcome.html

www.fwcc.org/internetsources.html

www.fwcc.org/chinanetsources.html

Joint Counsel on International Children's Services <http://www.jcics.org/>

Travel Recent information

China Consulates and Permanent Mission to the UN

www.china-un.org/eng/

www.visarite.com/chnConsulate.htm

www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6959891

www.Chinatravelguide.com

www.state.gov/

www.travel.state.gov/index.html

www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/regional/regional_1173.html



The Dragon's Daughters First Homes

Changshu Social Welfare Institute, Jiangsu Province

Chongqing Social Welfare Institute, Sizhuan Province

Feidong Social Welfare Institute, Anhui Province

Fuzhou Social Welfare Institute, Jiangxi Province

Guilin Social Welfare Institute, Guangxi Province

Jiujiang Social Welfare Institute, Jiangxi Province

Lanxi Social Welfare Institute, Zhejiang Province

Ma Anshan Social Welfare Institute, Anhui Province

Nanfeng Social Welfare Institute, Jiangxi Province

Nanjing Social Welfare Institute, Jiangsu Province

Wuhan Social Welfare Institute, Hubei Province

Wuhu Social Welfare Institute, Wuhu City, Anhui Province

Wuxi Social Welfare Institute, Jiangsu Province

WuZhong Social Welfare Institute (originally Wuxian SWI)
Jiangsu Province

Wuzhou Social Welfare Institute, Guangxi Province

Xiamen Social Welfare Institute, Fujian Province

Zhanjiang Children's Welfare Center, Guangdong Province

Zhangjiagang City Children's Welfare Institute, Zhangjiagang,
Jiangsu Province

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The beautiful calligraphy in this book flowed from the talented brush and generous heart of Li Yajing.

The felicitous and poetic Chinese title translation reads *Long Nu Hui Xiang* or *The Dragon’s Daughters Coming Back or Returning Home*. Zhang Yangjun added this lovely touch reminding us all that *Long Nu* or the Dragon’s Daughter is a classic robin hoodsque martial artist famous in Chinese folk tradition. Having lost her parents at a young age Long Nu is “adopted,” raised and trained by a woman *Wushu* (martial arts) adept. Author, Jin Yong revived these *Wugong* (world of martial arts) stories in the 1980s.

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